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Corpus Christi Army Depot

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Christmas —A time for sharing



Fred Salinas, aircraft engine overhaul inspector (in red shirt); Roy Longoria, hydraulics mechanic (in blue), and fellow CCAD employees ready to deliver three truckloads of food barrels to KIII-TV during the live telecast



Col. Jim Budney, spouse DeNise, and Santa visit with a resident of Westwood Manor Nursing Home on their Operation Christmas Spirit annual visit. The CCAD commander and his family fund, pur-

Depot employees came through again, as they always do when it comes to sharing their good fortune. The annual "Share Your Christmas" food drive saw CCAD employees fill 15 barrels of non-perishable goods to benefit the Food Bank of South Texas. The food drive, headed by Fred Salinas of the CCAD directorate of quality assurance, has been one of CCAD's Christmas projects since its inception 16 years ago. In addition to the food items, Roy Longoria of the CCAD hydraulics shop, presented KIII-TV anchorman Joe Gazin approximately \$200 in cash donated by his fellow hydraulics shop employees. Cash donations are especially welcomed by the food bank—for every dollar donated, they are able to purchase 16 pounds of food.

Operation Christmas Spirit is another of CCAD employees' community projects. Each December, residents of area nursing homes are treated to Santa, gifts, fruit, and the CCAD troubadours' (composed of both active and retired CCAD employees) musical and vocal talents, all compliments of the Operation Christmas Spirit program at CCAD.

The program was started by Manuel Garcia and Connie Castanon, two CCAD employees, now retired, after Garcia visited a relative at an area nursing home during the holidays. Garcia noticed the large number of residents who seemed to be alone during the holidays. He asked the nursing home administrator for a list of residents who seemingly had no family or friends. He and Castanon, along with the help of their families, made sure that each resident whose name appeared on the list received a gift that Christmas. Thus began Operation Christmas Spirit at CCAD.

The following year, Garcia and Castanon with the approval of Col. Tom Walker, then depot commander, solicited help from their fellow employees and held fundraising events during the year to fund the project. (See CCAD employees generosity, page 2)

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PEACE ON
EARTH



Word of the project spread to other area nursing home administrators. They contacted Garcia and Castanon with lists of lonely residents from their facilities. The project grew until all the nursing homes in the local area, plus Alice, Robstown, and Kingsville were included in the program. As fundraising events brought in more money, the group decided to include all residents of the homes on their list. This year, Operation Christmas Spirit brought over \$7000 worth of gifts to over 1600 residents in 14 area nursing homes.

Joe Gutierrez and Sandra Schoggins, two of the program committee members, have been involved with the program since the late 1980s. Gutierrez took over as committee chairperson after Garcia retired in 1999. Though retired, Garcia remains active with the program, whose success has received the attention of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), CCAD's major command.

During the AMC commanders' conference held in Corpus Christi September 2002, Gutierrez was asked to present a briefing on the program to the AMC commanders' spouses at the spouse conference. Gutierrez called on Garcia to help with the briefing and recalls, "Manuel had them all in tears when he read the card from a nursing home activity director. She told about a resident from Canterbury Nursing Home in Kingsville who had received a gift of pajamas from us. He was overwhelmed with joy with the only gift he had received. That night, the gentleman passed away with the pajamas still clutched in his arms."

Gutierrez contributes the program's success to the feeling of satisfaction experienced by the program's participants at the sight of an elderly or disabled person's face when they see Santa, the musicians playing and singing Christmas carols. The committee family members, particularly the children, seem to bring extra joy to residents.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



Santa pauses to dance to "Feliz Naiad" with a Westwood Manor Nursing Home resident. Musicians for the Operation Christmas Spirit project visit as many as four nursing homes in one evening. The group is always looking for new members, so if you play any musical instrument, contact Joe Gutierrez at

Of course, the program could not be successful without the support of the many employees who help with the fundraising events throughout the year. They also contribute their time to shop for gifts, wrap and deliver them to the residents. The musicians and Santa, who visit every nursing home with the different groups, sometimes four locations in one night, add an extra note of festivity to the visits. From time to time, an NAS-Corpus Christi employee or two have joined the musical group.

"The feeling of joy and happiness that fills the heart is the greatest reward," says Gutierrez. "Our senior citizens have paid their dues and they should not be forgotten."

Thanks to the hard work of the Operation Christmas Spirit volunteers, these important members of our society shall not be forgotten.

The food bank and nursing homes are not the only benefactors of CCAD employees' generosity. CCAD employee Keith Jorgensen, who works in the can shop, was involved in an auto accident in early December that claimed the life of his four-year-old daughter and left him with multiple injuries that require a prolonged recuperative period. Fellow employees have rallied to his aid with contributions of leave and monetary donations.

CCAD employees truly know how to embrace the true meaning of Christmas.



Buckle up...drive friendly...celebrate responsibly...



Larry Simone (2nd from right) talks to KIII-TV, KRIS TV, and KZTV reporters about the two Apache aircraft that arrived via USAF C-17 (seen in background) from Afghanistan on Wed. The two aircraft were transported to CCAD for evaluation prior to undergoing repair.



Pete Rivera, director of resource management (l), Col. Jim Budney (c), and Jay Hatch, regional sales manager with Foundry Networks, prepare to cut the ribbon at the entrance to CCAD Site I to commemorate the completion of the first phase of the High Speed Feature Rich Network upgrade. The upgrade will increase the internet and email capabilities at CCAD. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Dec. 10.

A heartfelt thanks -



Keith Jorgensen and his family would like to sincerely thank everyone for their many expressions of kindness and sympathy during the recent accident that claimed the life of his 4-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn. Pictured are Keith, his wife, Vera, and daughters Alyssa (7) and Kaitlyn. Keith and Kaitlyn were involved in a head-on collision on Weber Road on Thursday, December 4. Kaitlyn passed away on Sunday, December 7 from injuries received in the accident. Keith is in Spohn Memorial Hospital. He has undergone 6 surgeries on his legs and arm and is facing many months of rehabilitation. Keith works in the CCAD Can Shop. His dad, Ken Jorgensen, retired from Hgr 43 about 10 years ago. Keith and his family are overwhelmed by the generosity of his fellow CCADers in their donations of leave, monetary contributions, prayers, and expressions of sympathy and support and wish to express their heartfelt thanks. He asks for everyone's continued prayers for his family and for his complete and rapid recovery. (Photo at right:) Keith Jorgensen is shown with his wife, Vera, and daughters Alyssa (7) and Kaitlyn (4), before the tragic accident that claimed Kaitlyn's life. After a three-week stay at Spohn Memorial, Keith is being moved to Spohn Shoreline where he will undergo physical therapy.)



Christmas around CCAD...



"Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way", enthusiastically sang Armando Salinas during the MHRM Christmas luncheon. The local chapter of the Federal Managers' Association hosted the luncheon complete with a visit from Santa for the MHRM janitorial services employees.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM T700 MOD ASSY, 542A0**

Federal Managers' Association hosts Christmas luncheon

On Thursday, December 11, 2003, members of CCAD's Federal Managers Association (FMA) held a Christmas luncheon for the MHRM janitorial crew. FMA members prepared and served the food. There were musicians, singing, a surprise visit by Santa Claus, and plenty of delicious food for everyone. The janitorial staff had a great time. They enjoyed the music and visiting with Santa Claus, Col. Budney, and FMA members. Rey Cortez, president of the Corpus Christi Chapter of FMA, thanked everyone who made this event possible.



CCAD Director of Aircraft Production, Larry Simone (Santa) prepares to board his CCAD sleigh chauffeured by Sam Ramon to make rounds in his directorate shops on Friday. Santa delivered candy to all good directorate employees (really, they've all been good, they all said so!). Merry Christmas!



Santa Claus greets Michelle Taylor, one of the guests of honor at the MHRM staff Christmas luncheon given by FMA. Also seen in photo are Gracie Franco (far left), and Jesse Moreno.



**Don't be a holiday statistic--
don't drink and drive.**





Norbert Lutz, AMCOM logistics assistance division chief (shown at left in photos), and Col. Jim Budney, CCAD commander, presented graduation certificates and Commander's Award for Civilian Service for Operation Iraqi Freedom service to AMCOM logistics assistance representa-

AMCOM-CCAD LAR-University holds graduation ceremony

by Bob Jones, Chief, Manufacturing Training

Corpus Christi Army Depot held a Logistics Assistance Representative University (LAR-U) graduation and awards ceremony for four AMCOM graduates on Dec. 12.

The IMMC Readiness Directorate has partnered with CCAD to establish a dynamic aviation maintenance training program. LAR-U is currently providing advanced depot level aviation training to worldwide AMCOM field logistics assistance personnel and has the complete support of AMCOM's senior leadership and the Commander Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), Col. James Budney. Phase I training is designed to provide LARs, Department of Army and CCAD technicians, with depot level knowledge and skills via advanced technical training in the classroom, as well as through structured hands-on training. The goal is to increase the knowledge of aviation industry standards, practices, and engineering concepts, manufacturing procedures, inspection and quality techniques. This coupled with depot techniques and skills will give the LAR, the army's technical experts, additional insight and knowledge to make the mission-critical decisions necessary to assist the soldier in the field.

Budney and Norbert Lutz, AMCOM logistics assistance division chief, jointly presented graduation certificates to four LARs who successfully completed Phase 1 training at LAR-U CCAD. Lutz commended Budney and senior depot leadership for their continued support of the AMCOM LAR-U training program and noted that he continues to receive feedback from field commanders on the significant impact that LAR-U graduates are making towards field readiness.

Budney and Lutz also thanked the two Air Force Battle Damage Assessment and Repair (BDAR) instructors, TSgt. Brent Mewszel and TSgt. Sean Hackney of the U.S Air Force Combat Logistics Support Squadron at Robins AFB, Ga. who presented a pilot battle damage assessment and repair (BDAR) course as part of the LAR-U training program.

Congratulations to CCAD December retirees and thanks for your support to our troops!



Jesus M. DeLeon
Jerry B. Filip
Alfonso Garcia, III

Francisco J. Guerra
Martin Leal, Jr.
Juan Martinez

Rolando H. Martinez
James A. Morgan
Joe Ed Satsjy



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Federal Employee Association/NAS-CCAD achieves record attendance at latest blood drive by Sheree Ewing, Marketing and Public Relations, CBBC

The Coastal Bend Blood Center (CBBC) extends its sincerest thanks to all those who shared the "gift of life" at the latest FEA/NAS-CCAD blood drive on Wednesday, December 10th. We saw 83 donors, a record number during the four and a half hour blood drive and a vast increase over the previous month's drive. Such support from dedicated volunteer blood donors is crucial and greatly appreciated, especially at this time of year, when blood is traditionally in short supply due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness.

The CBBC is grateful for the ongoing support of our FEA/NAS-CCAD blood donors, and we look forward to achieving an even larger turnout at our next scheduled blood drive in January. In January, we observe National Volunteer Blood Donor month, a time set aside to acknowledge and thank dedicated blood donors for their commitment to saving lives. The Blood Center's bloodmobile will be on Base again Wednesday, January 14th from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. We encourage you to continue sharing the "gift of life." Together we can help save lives!

The CBBC is an independent non-profit community-based blood center, accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks and licensed by the Food and Drug Administration. The CBBC helps donors provide blood for patients at 13 medical facilities in 10 Coastal Bend counties.

LAR-U at CCAD (Continued from page 5)

The four AMCOM LAR graduates of the AMCOM-CCAD LAR-U were Frank L. Huggins, Byron O. Lewis, Dennis W. Mullen, and honor graduate Brian P. Newton. The four successfully completed the ten-week first phase of advanced technical training in the following courses:

Precision Measuring and Gauging. (Aviation) 32 hours

Aircraft Structures I 40 hours

Basic thru Advanced Blueprint Reading (Avn) 40 hours

T-700-701 Engine, (Disassembly and Assembly) 40 hours

Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing 56 hours

AMCOM Engineering Support, JEDMICS, Recap Program, ACE/CPCE Program – 24 hours

Defense Logistics Assistance (DLA) – 24 hours

Aircraft Structures, (Advanced) – 40 hours

Battle Damage Assessment Repair (BDAR) – 48 hours

T-55-L712 Engine (Disassembly and Assembly) – 40 hours

(Aircraftsman Editor's note: Reference "LAR training at CCAD" article, published in the *Wingspan/Aircraftsman* January 9, 2002 issue. The idea for LAR-U originated with Larry Simone, currently CCAD director of aircraft production, who, in March 2001, saw a benefit in the training for LARs. The idea was passed on to Rick Hunter, who invited Tom Ingram, AMCOM director for readiness, and Norb Lutz, chief, readiness logistics office, to tour the depot. After familiarizing them with depot operations, Hunter succeeded in selling the idea to AMCOM. Ingram and Lutz agreed that the idea was a win/win situation for AMCOM, CCAD, and the soldier in the field. With the added support of Col. Mitch Dockens, then CCAD commander, the training plan became a reality with the first LAR course starting in November, 2001.)

***Merry Christmas and
thanks to all members of
our Armed Forces serving
all over the world!***

